

INFORMATION LETTER

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NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
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PEA CROP CONDITIONS

Unseasonable Weather in Various Districts Noted in Telegraphic Reports from Cannerys

The following statement on the conditions of the pea crop is the first of the 1936 series of weekly statements which will be carried in the INFORMATION LETTER. These statements are based on telegraphic reports from cannerys and indicate the conditions up to Thursday night.

VIRGINIA: Peas in the Tidewater and Eastern Shore sections of Virginia are about ready for packing. The crop has suffered somewhat from lack of moisture and temperatures that have been above normal.

MARYLAND AND DELAWARE: Peas in this section are setting pods that are reported to be very short because of high temperatures and lack of moisture.

SOUTHERN PENNSYLVANIA AND NORTHERN MARYLAND: In this section peas are beginning to blossom. Stands are reported to be about average. Temperatures have been above normal during the past week but moisture is reported adequate as a result of a good rain Wednesday night.

NEW YORK: Plantings in some sections were seriously delayed by cool weather and rains but peas are now coming up nicely. Weather during the past ten days has been unseasonably warm, with little rain except light showers.

OHIO: Pea crop in Ohio is reported to be fully ten days late. It made fairly satisfactory progress until about May 7th. Five successive days of temperatures above 90 damaged crop to an undeterminable degree. During Tuesday and Wednesday about an inch of rain fell over the entire territory. Normal temperature returned, which has helped the situation considerably.

WISCONSIN: Cannerys in Wisconsin report a cut in the Alaska acreage of from 10 to 15 per cent. Planting has been delayed in the northern part of the state because of cool weather and rains. The southern part has suffered from lack of moisture and temperatures that have ranged from 10 to 15 degrees above normal.

TAX AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED

Secretary Wallace Submits Suggestions to the Senate Finance Committee

On Tuesday, May 12th, Secretary Wallace appeared before the Senate Finance Committee, now considering the new tax bill, and made a series of recommendations in respect to processing taxes.

Windfall Taxes

The Secretary first urged minor revisions in the provisions of the bill imposing a so-called "windfall" tax on processors who secured the return of impounded processing taxes.

These exceedingly complex provisions of the new revenue bill would impose a tax of 80 per cent on that portion of a processor's net income derived from the sale of articles on which a processing tax had been imposed but not paid. Approximately \$320,000,000 in impounded or otherwise uncollected processing taxes is involved. These provisions are of interest to cannerys because they also provide that any person who secures a refund from a seller on account of processing taxes on the articles sold, shall likewise be liable for 80 per cent of the net income derived from the sale of such article where he did not in turn reimburse his customers with the amount received. A very complex series of presumptions are specified as applicable both to the processor and to any person who received tax reimbursement from a processor.

Refunds on Exported Canned Foods

Secretary Wallace further submitted an amendment relating to refunds of processing taxes paid on commodities used in the manufacture of articles exported. It will be recalled that the original revenue bill provided that where exported articles had been manufactured from taxable commodities, no refund would be permitted unless the articles in question had been exported prior to January 6, 1936. This proposed rule would have seriously affected exports of canned foods, particularly fruits packed in syrup. The National Cannery Association filed a memorandum protesting against this provision and urged formally and informally that it be modified. Secretary Wallace proposed last Tuesday that the section be amended so that in the case of any article "processed wholly or partly from sugar with respect to which a processing tax was paid," the exportation might take place at any time prior to September 1, 1936. It will be necessary, however, to file the refund claim prior to January 1, 1937. A further amendment was suggested by Mr. Wallace to provide that refunds on account of such exports would not be allowed to anyone who had secured the refund of the amount of processing taxes on the sugar used, from the company from which he purchased such sugar, or who had an agreement for such refund.

Refunds of Processing Taxes Actually Paid

In addition to the "windfall" taxes on impounded tax funds, Secretary Wallace proposed an amendment relating to the handling of claims for the refund of processing taxes actually paid during the period prior to the *Hoosac* decision. In the amendments to the Agricultural Adjustment Act enacted last summer a provision had been included prohibiting such refunds unless it was established that the claimant had actually absorbed the burden of the tax. This section has already been held invalid by one Federal District Court; and there are pending 8,500 claims for refund and over 200 court suits.

Secretary Wallace recommended that this section (21(d)) be amended by the substitution of an exceedingly long new

section. This new section would permit the filing of claims for refund up to January 1, 1937, would limit claims to one claim covering all taxes with respect to a single commodity, and would permit refund only where the Commissioner of Internal Revenue was satisfied that the claimant had borne the entire burden of the tax. A series of *prima facie* presumptions are created pursuant to which it is presumed that the claimant did not pass the tax on if his average margin was lower during the tax period than before and after the tax period. Similarly, it is to be presumed that he did not absorb the tax but passed it on if his margin was the same or greater during the tax period. Either the taxpayer or the Commissioner may meet these presumptions by establishing the actual facts. If the Commissioner fails to act on the claim within eighteen months, suit may be brought. If the Commissioner rejects the claim, the claimant may have a hearing and thereafter appeal from the Commissioner's determination to a Circuit Court of Appeals. The Commissioner's findings of facts are made conclusive and the costs of any appeal must be borne by the claimant if he fails to have the Commissioner's determinations modified.

The new section precludes the allowance of interest on such refunds, and permits the Commissioner to require production of books and records. In addition to the 73,000 companies which paid processing taxes, the same rules are to apply to claims for refund of floor stocks taxes which were paid by approximately 1,193,000 taxpayers. It is likely that this provision will be incorporated in the pending revenue bill.

New Processing Taxes Recommended

The Secretary also suggested that the Committee include in the new revenue bill a series of excise taxes on the processing of agricultural commodities. The first tax proposed was that of $\frac{1}{2}$ of a cent a pound on sugar. Secretary Wallace presented a separate statement concerning sugar in which he pointed out that a reduction of $\frac{1}{2}$ of a cent in the sugar tariff had been continued and the quota system under the Jones-Costigan Act had been maintained after the *Hoosac* decision. He intimated that unless a processing tax were imposed on sugar, it would be necessary to terminate the quota system and restore the full amount of the tariff, as well as to discontinue benefit payments to domestic sugar producers. In addition, the Secretary asked the Committee to impose processing taxes on other commodities—wheat, 8¢ a bushel; rye, 6¢ a bushel; corn, 6¢ a bushel; hogs, 30¢ per cwt.; cotton, $1\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per lb.; rice, $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ per lb.; peanuts, $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ per lb.; tobacco, varying amounts from 40¢ per thousand on cigars to 6¢ on cigarettes; barley, 6¢ a bushel; oats, $4\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ a bushel; cattle, 8¢ per cwt.; lamb, 4¢ per cwt.; jute, 1¢ per lb.; paper, 95¢ per thousand bags or $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢ per lb.; rayon, 1.8¢ per lb.; silk, 3.8¢ per lb.; alcoholic spirits, 3¢ per gallon. Whether these processing taxes will be accepted by the Senate Finance Committee cannot be forecast.

Amendment of A. A. A.

Finally, Secretary Wallace requested extensive modification of the existing Agricultural Adjustment Act in order to repeal those sections which had been held invalid in the *Hoosac* case and to reenact those sections considered not to have been invalidated. These proposals are of considerable interest to canners. The Secretary first recommended

repeal of all sections relating to the imposition and collection of processing taxes. He did not recommend the repeal of the provisions authorizing the issuance of "Orders" (i. e., licenses) since the A. A. A. legal division believes these sections are still effective. It will be recalled that under the A. A. A. amendments of last summer canning crops (with the exception of asparagus and ripe olives) are exempt from these regulatory provisions. At the present time there is pending in Boston a case involving the validity of an A. A. A. order regulating the price at which milk may be sold in the Boston milkshed. It is expected that this decision will throw some light on the general validity of these marketing agreement and "Order" sections of the Agricultural Adjustment Act in the light of the Supreme Court decision in the *Hoosac* case.

Secretary Wallace made no recommendations concerning the section of the revenue bill providing for refunds to companies which held floor stocks of certain taxable commodities on January 6th. A number of canners on that date held large stocks of sugar on which the processing tax had been paid. As now drafted, the new revenue bill would permit refunds of the processing tax to such canners but limits the amount to the sum by which they "reduced the sale price of the article on account of the invalidation of the taxes under the Agricultural Adjustment Act." This language was drafted primarily to meet the situation of the wholesaler and retailer who had stocks of sugar on January 6, 1936, and not to cover the situation of the manufacturer. Inasmuch as canners who had stocks of sugar on January 6, 1936, held it for manufacturing purposes and not for resale, considerable confusion now exists as to the method whereby the terms of this provision can be met. The Association has urged that this section be clarified so as to afford relief to such canners.

WHAT'S DOING IN CONGRESS

House Disposes of Major Bill—Senate Working on the Tax Measure

The House has passed the deficiency bill carrying funds for relief and for the Social Security Act and has also defeated the Frazier-Lemke farm-mortgage bill. It has therefore disposed of all major legislation and is waiting on the Senate. In the meantime it has the time to consider the bills already passed by the Senate, such as the Robinson price-discrimination bill, the Wheeler Federal Trade Commission bill, and the Copeland bill to amend the Food and Drugs Act. The Senate is waiting for the Finance Committee to report out the tax bill and for the Appropriations Committee to bring out the deficiency bill.

Tax Bill

Testimony of experts before the Senate Finance Committee has led to a determination to rewrite the bill, especially the provisions relating to undistributed earnings, and apparently this procedure has Administration approval. Although there is much guesswork as to what the new draft will contain, the most generally accepted guess is that the present corporate tax will be put back in the bill, with possibly some increase—perhaps a flat rate of 15 per cent—and that a graduated surtax on that part of net income over

30 per cent retained will be substituted for the hotly opposed provision in the House bill. There is still great reluctance to write excise taxes into the bill. It will be at least another week before the measure is ready for Senate action. The recommendations of Secretary Wallace on excise taxes are discussed elsewhere in this issue of the LETTER.

Copeland Bill

The Chapman subcommittee has reported the Copeland Bill to the full House Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, and there is much gossip as to the nature of the amendments that will be contained in the bill when it is finally reported out to the House. Some reports have it that a number of the original so-called Tugwell provisions have been revived, while others have it that the amendments will all be minor in character. It is likely that the full committee will act on the bill some time during the week of May 18th.

Status of Other Bills

PRICE DISCRIMINATION BILLS.—No action yet by the House Rules Committee to bring up the Robinson-Patman Bill, but Majority Leader Bankhead states it will be up for a vote next week.

PACKERS AND STOCKYARDS BILL.—The scheduled House Agricultural Committee meeting to consider the Senate bill to amend the Packers and Stockyards Act was called off and no definite date for another meeting has been set.

WATER POLLUTION BILL.—The Lonergan Bill is still in the hands of the Caraway subcommittee of the Senate Commerce Committee, and the action anticipated during the week has not materialized.

LONG-AND-SHORT-HAUL BILL.—The bill passed by the House is before the Senate Interstate Commerce Committee, where hearings have been in progress during the week.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION BILL.—No action has been taken to appoint a subcommittee of the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee to handle the Wheeler Bill to add to the powers of the Federal Trade Commission.

Our Purchases of Spanish Olives

Exports of green olives and olives in brine from Spain in 1935 totaled 169,192 metric quintals valued at 7,309,079 gold pesetas, of which 88,073 quintals valued at 4,013,222 pesetas went to the United States. (The metric quintal equals 220.46 pounds and the gold peseta is valued at approximately 33 cents.) In 1934 the total exports were 156,774 quintals valued at 7,780,943 pesetas; 77,681 quintals valued at 4,297,286 pesetas went to the United States.

Grapefruit Shipments to Pacific Coast

Shipments of canned grapefruit from Florida to Pacific Coast ports in April totaled 18,415 cases, all but 1,000 cases of which were shipped from Tampa, according to the Jacksonville office of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. Shipments of canned grapefruit juice amounted to 23,629 cases, of which 1,000 were shipped from Jacksonville. In addition there were shipped 119 cases of grapefruit salad and 12 barrels of preserved grapefruit peel.

LIMA BEAN ACREAGE

Government Report Indicates Nearly 25 Per cent Increase Over Last Year

Reports to the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics from 37 representative packers of green lima beans, giving acreage which these firms intend to contract or plant in 1936, indicate an increase of 24.9 per cent over that planted in 1935. The 37 reporting firms grew or contracted about two-thirds of the total acreage estimated for 1935. This increase, based on indications secured late in April, appears to be distributed among most all of the important States.

Should changes in total acreage be made in line with these indications, a total of 36,360 acres would be planted in 1936, compared with 29,110 in 1935, 25,250 in 1934, 17,460 in 1933, 17,930 in 1932, and 29,740 acres in 1931. If packers contract or plant 36,360 acres of lima beans in 1936, this planted acreage will exceed the previous record acreage of 1930 by nearly 8 per cent when 33,780 acres were planted.

The following table shows, by groups of States, the total acreages which would result if changes are made in line with late April reports from packers to contract and plant acreage in 1936. As noted by the Bureau, these planned acreages may be modified before plantings are actually made, and they are not to be considered as estimates of planted acreage for the coming season. The acreage finally planted in 1936 may be greater or less than present indications, depending upon further adjustments which packers and growers may make in their plans between now and planting time.

State	Planted acreage			Intended in 1936	
	1933	1934	1935	As % of 1935	Indicated Acres
	Acres	Acres	Acres	Per cent	Acres
New Jersey	1,600	2,100	4,100	125.0	25,740
Delaware	4,200	7,300	8,000		
Maryland	2,300	3,200	3,200		
Virginia	5,350	5,500	5,300		
Michigan	1,100	3,100	3,000	124.8	10,620
Other States *	2,910	4,050	5,510		
Total	17,460	25,250	29,110	124.9	36,360

* "Other States" include Colorado, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Ohio.

TRUCK CROP PROSPECTS

Summary of Government Reports on Crops of Interest to Canning Industry

The following statements briefly review the May 12th releases of the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics on the acreage and production forecasts of certain commercial truck crops in specified groups of States for the 1936 season:

ASPARAGUS.—There are 2,865,000 crates (24-lb.) of asparagus forecast for the late group of States (Delaware, Illinois, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Washington) as compared with 2,479,000 crates in 1935, indicating an increase of 16 per cent. There is an indicated increase of 43 per cent over the 5-year (1928-32) average of 2,009,000 crates. Yields per acre are expected to average 15 per cent above those of a year ago and 35 per cent above the 10-year (1923-32) average yields. The acreage estimated for cutting in

the late States this year (26,700 acres) is only slightly larger, about 1 per cent, than the 26,540 acres cut in 1935, but it is 9 per cent greater than the 5-year (1928-32) average of 24,490 acres.

SNAP BEANS.—The acreage of snap beans remaining for harvest in the second early States (Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina) is 6 per cent smaller than last year's acreage and 10 per cent smaller than the 5-year (1928-32) average acreage, or 17,800 acres this year, compared with 18,900 acres in 1935 and the 5-year average of 19,780 acres. Yields per acre are expected to average well below both those of last year and the 10-year (1923-32) average yields. The indicated production of 1,051,000 bushels is 22 per cent smaller than the 1,350,000 bushels produced in 1935. Part of the production in 1935 was not harvested, however, and this year's indicated production is 11 per cent smaller than the 1,179,000 bushels harvested last year.

CABBAGE.—The preliminary estimate of acreage for the intermediate States (Arkansas, Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maryland, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Long Island, Ohio-southeast, Tennessee, Virginia-southwest, Washington) is 9 per cent below both the 1935 and the 1934 acreage, and 3 per cent below both the 1933 and the average acreage for the preceding five years, 1928 to 1932. Smaller acreages are reported in all of the larger commercial areas except in Tennessee and on Long Island, New York. The total acreage for the group of States is estimated at 22,160, compared with 24,430 acres in 1935, 24,280 acres in 1934, 22,760 acres in 1933, and the 5-year average of 22,820 acres. These estimates include acreage from which the production will be taken by kraut packers.

GREEN PEAS.—The production of peas in two of the intermediate States, North Carolina and Virginia, is expected to be 13 per cent smaller than the 1935 production—325,000 bushels indicated for this year, compared with 372,000 bushels in 1935. The reported acreage is 6 per cent larger than that of last year but yields per acre average considerably below both those of last year and the 10-year (1923-32) average yields.

GREEN PEPPERS.—There are 900,000 bushels forecast for the spring crop of peppers in Florida, indicating an increase of 41 per cent over last spring's crop of 640,000 bushels. There is a reported increase of 12 per cent in the acreage, and the yield per acre is expected to be considerably greater than that of a year ago.

STRAWBERRIES.—A production of 3,586,000 crates (24 quarts) of strawberries is expected in the intermediate States as compared with 3,468,000 crates produced in these States in 1935, an indicated increase of 3 per cent. There is an estimated increase of 13 per cent over 1935 in the acreage. Yields per acre are expected to average 8 per cent below those of a year ago but well above, about 12 per cent, the 10-year average yields.

Neerology

Chester L. Pike, at Lubec, Maine, aged 69; pioneer sardine canner and president of the Seaboard Packing Company.

Theodore F. Whitmarsh, at New York City, May 12th, aged 67; Chairman of the Board of Francis H. Leggett & Co., with which he first became associated in 1885; one of the founders of the National Wholesale Grocers Association; assistant to Herbert Hoover in the Food Administration during the World War, representative of the Food Administration on the War Industries Board, and Chairman of the American Committee on European food relief following the Armistice.

CANNED PEA STANDARD REVISED

New Methods of Determining the Immaturity of Green Peas Are Adopted

A revision of the standard for canned peas, under the provisions of the McNary-Mapes Amendment of the Food and Drugs Act, was promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture on May 8th, effective 90 days from that date, thus making interstate shipments of canned peas on or after August 6th subject to the requirements of the new standard. In its notice to canners and distributors, the Food and Drug Administration states:

"This standard replaces in its entirety the standard for canned peas now in Service and Regulatory Announcement Food and Drug No. 4, Revision 3. The basic standard of quality and condition given in paragraph 60 is revised only to the extent of eliminating the word "tender," tenderness now being included as one of the criteria of immaturity. The paragraphs on meaning of terms have been so changed as to include only definitions, and a separate subheading on preparation and examination of sample has been added.

"In addition to making tenderness a criteria of immaturity, the water-insoluble solids determination described in paragraph 63 of the old standard has been replaced by a determination of the percent of alcohol-insoluble solids of the drained peas. The percentage of peas ruptured $\frac{1}{16}$ inch or more is retained as an index of immaturity, and in addition a determination of the percentage by weight of peas which sink in a brine of 1.12 specific gravity has been added.

"The new standard makes no change in the standard of quality, condition or fill of container for canned peas, merely giving additional means of determining whether or not the canned peas are immature. Extensive studies of the canning of peas, and examination of experimental packs prepared under controlled conditions, have demonstrated that properly prepared immature peas will in all cases be above the minimum standard of quality. It will therefore work no hardship on packers who cut their peas before maturity. Its announcement at this time makes it possible for canners, at the time of packing, to make sure whether their product meets the minimum standard of quality for canned peas."

The text of the new standard (Supplement 2 of the Third Revision of S. R. A. F. & D. No. 4) follows:

CANNED PEAS

STANDARD OF QUALITY AND CONDITION

60. Standard canned peas are the normally flavored and normally colored canned food consisting of the immature, unbroken seed of the common or garden pea (*Pisum sativum*), with or without seasoning (sugar, salt), and with or without added potable water. The product is practically free from foreign material and, in the case of products containing added liquid, the liquor present is reasonably clear.

MEANING OF TERMS

61. The term "normally colored," as it relates to the peas, means a naturally developed general effect of green, except that not to exceed 4 per cent by count of off-colored peas, such as brown, brown-spotted, white, or yellowish-white peas may be present.

62. The peas are "immature" (1) if 90 per cent or more by count are sufficiently soft so that either cotyledon is crushed by a weight of less than 907.2 grams (2 pounds), (2) if not more than 20 per cent by weight of the drained peas sink in a brine of 1.12 specific gravity at 60° F., (3) if the alcohol insoluble solids of the drained peas do not exceed 23 per cent, and (4) if

less than 25 per cent of the peas by count are swollen to such an extent as to rupture the skin sufficiently to separate the broken edges one-sixteenth inch or more.

63. The pea seed is "unbroken" if 80 per cent or more of the units by count are in such a condition that the two cotyledons are still held together by the skin, even though the cotyledons may be cracked or partially crushed, or the skin split. Each major portion of a skin or cotyledon not included in the above definition is counted as a broken pea.

64. The peas are "practically free from foreign material" when they are entirely free from material which varies greatly in size or specific gravity from peas, such as stones, large pieces of pea shell, sticks; and when they contain per each 2 ounces of net contents not more than one piece of material which closely approximates peas in size and specific gravity, such as thistle buds, daisy heads, portions of radish-seed pods. The difficulty of absolute freedom from the latter class of foreign material occasionally renders its complete exclusion impracticable.

65. The liquor is "reasonably clear" when it is not badly clouded and does not contain considerable sediment.

PREPARATION AND EXAMINATION OF SAMPLE

66. Transfer the contents of the can to a dish, mix and remove a sample of 100 to 200 peas to be used in tests provided in paragraphs 61, 62 (1) and (4), and 63. Place these peas in a dish of appropriate size, cover them with liquor if liquor is present, and keep dish covered to prevent evaporation until the tests are actually made. Cover the remainder of the sample in the same manner and reserve for tests provided in paragraphs 62 (2) and (3), 64 and 65.

67(a). Determine if 90 per cent of the peas are "sufficiently soft" (paragraph 62 (1)) by the following method: Remove the skin of the pea and place one cotyledon on its flat surface on a horizontal, smooth plate. By means of a second horizontal, smooth plate apply vertically an initial load of 100 grams, and increase the load at a uniform, continuous rate of 12 grams per second until the cotyledon is compressed to one-fourth its original thickness.

67(b). Determine the percentage of peas which sink (paragraph 62 (2)) as follows: Pour the sample, provided for this test in paragraph 66, on an 8-mesh screen, using an 8-inch screen for containers of less than 3 pounds net weight, and a 12-inch screen for larger containers. Spread the peas evenly and allow to drain. Reserve liquor, if any, for test provided in paragraph 65. Transfer peas to a white pan and remove any foreign material for tests provided in paragraph 64. Add a volume of water equal to double the volume of the original sample. Pour back on the screen, spreading the peas evenly, tilt the screen as much as possible without shifting the peas and drain for 2 minutes. With a cloth wipe surplus moisture from lower surface of screen, remove the drained peas and determine their weight. Pour the drained peas at once into a brine of 1.12 specific gravity at 68° F. The brine temperature must be such that the resulting mixture will be within 1° of 68° F. The brine container must be of such size that the brine will be at least 4" deep and of such dimensions that the floating peas can form a single layer. Allow the peas to remain in the brine for 15 seconds, immediately skim off the floating peas, wash, drain and weigh, following the same procedure as provided above. Determine weight of peas which sink by subtracting weight of floating peas from weight of drained peas, and calculate percentage.

67(c). Determine percentage of alcohol insoluble solids in the drained peas (paragraph 62 (3)) as follows: Immediately after skimming off the floating peas as provided in paragraph 67(b), drain and wash the peas which sink as provided in that paragraph, and thoroughly mix them with the peas separated by floating as provided in paragraph 67(b), grind the mixture in a food chopper, stir until homogeneous and weigh 20 grams of the ground material into a 600 cc beaker. Add 300 cc of 80 per cent alcohol (by volume), stir, cover beaker and bring to a boil. Simmer slowly for one-half hour. Fit into a Buchner funnel a filter paper, previously prepared as follows: Place a paper of appropriate size in a flat bottom dish, uncovered but provided with a tight fitting cover. Dry for 2 hours at the temperature of boiling water, cover dish, cool in a desiccator, and weigh at once. Transfer contents of beaker to Buchner funnel, filter with suction, and wash mate-

rial on filter with 80 per cent alcohol until washings are clear and colorless. Transfer filter paper and alcohol insoluble solids to the dish used in the preparation of the filter paper, dry uncovered for 2 hours at the temperature of boiling water, place cover on dish, cool in a desiccator, and weigh at once. From this weight deduct weight of dish, cover and paper to determine weight of alcohol insoluble solids. Calculate percentage.

SUBSTANDARD QUALITY STATEMENT

68. Canned peas which fail to meet the above standard shall bear the substandard statement in the form and manner prescribed in paragraph 1. The first line of the legend shall be "Below U. S. Standard," the explanatory statement, except as provided in section (a), "Low Quality But Not Illegal."

(a) When canned peas fail to meet the above standard only in that they are artificially colored, the explanatory statement shall be "Because artificially colored."

STANDARD REQUIREMENT FOR FILL OF CONTAINER

69. Canned peas are of standard fill with respect to packing medium when the proportion of free liquid in the product is such that when the contents of the container are poured out and poured back into the container standing on a level surface, and the peas leveled without downward pressure, the liquid does not completely cover the peas after being allowed to stand for 15 seconds: Provided, That when the declared net weight is sufficient to fill the container to 90 per cent or more of its capacity, liquid in excess of such declared net weight shall be removed before making the test.

SUBSTANDARD FILL STATEMENT

70. Canned peas which fail to meet the above requirement shall bear the substandard statement in the form and manner prescribed in paragraph 10 (2).

GEORGIA TOMATO PLANTS

State Officials Confer on Certification—Present Growing Conditions

The Director of the Raw Products Bureau participated in a conference at Tifton, Georgia, on May 11 and 12 regarding seed and plant certification requirements. The conference was called by tomato plant certification officials of Georgia and was attended principally by plant pathologists and state officials from New Jersey, Maryland, Indiana, Michigan and other states who have to do with certifying tomato seed.

The conference afforded opportunity for a first-hand study of the Georgia tomato plant growing industry, which has now reached such a volume that nearly 6,000 acres of land are devoted to growing tomato plants for northern shipment.

Georgia tomato plants are somewhat smaller, on the average, than is usual for this time of year, and while both carlot and truck shipments are now going out in considerable volume many northern canners have had some difficulty in filling their needs for plants of desirable size and quality for field setting. This difficulty has been experienced principally by canners in sections where conditions are usually right for setting in the field before May 15. There is considerable variation in the methods followed by different growers in south Georgia and these are reflected in differences in the growth and vigor of the plants.

Seeding in Georgia was somewhat delayed by cold weather and heavy rains early in the season, while growth of the plants has been slowed down by lack of rain during late April and early May.

The Georgia authorities stated that they would continue to test certified seed and if the seed is found to be contaminated with disease organisms, the individual plant grower would be informed of the results of the test and local seed treatment would be recommended. A number of pathologists present expressed some doubt as to the relation between seed contamination reported by the Georgia authorities and the possible danger of seedling disease in the plants grown from such seed. Further research will be carried on as rapidly as possible to clear up this problem and to develop methods both of seed treatment and seed examination that will be more generally acceptable from the standpoint of seed and plant certification and from the standpoint of plant grower and canner.

Japanese Canned Fish Trade

The pack of canned sardines in tomato sauce during 1935 totaled 734,438 cases against 668,386 cases in 1934, 426,615 cases in 1933 and 257,259 cases in 1932. Total exports during 1935 amounted to 694,515 cases, according to the American trade commissioner in Tokyo.

Final figures for the 1935 pack of tuna fish in oil are now available. The pack of white meat totaled 332,331 cases, the light meat pack was 49,254 cases and mackerel 14,345 cases, a total of 395,930 cases. Exports amounted to 391,917 cases of which the United States took about 70 per cent, the remainder being exported largely to Belgium and other European countries. The 1935 pack of tuna fish other than in oil amounted to 11,103 cases.

On April 8, 1936, the Japan Tinned Tuna Association decided to limit exports of tuna fish (white meat) to the United States during 1936 to 350,000 cases and exports to Canada to 45,000 cases of white meat, a total of 395,000 cases. These export quantities are limited to white meat tuna fish but in case of shortage, packers may substitute light meat instead of white meat.

The Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Tokyo, has announced the 1936 export limit of frozen tuna fish of 4,000 tons, including 2,000 tons of white meat or long-finned tuna and 2,000 tons of light meat tuna, but permission will be granted to substitute one variety for the other in case of shortage.

Imports of Preserved Pineapple

The Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has compiled statistics showing that imports of preserved pineapple during the first quarter of the year amounted to 1,519,726 pounds valued at \$68,942. Of this total, 1,107,653 pounds valued at \$48,461 came from Japan. British Malaya supplied most of the remainder.

British Production of Canned Foods

Statistics on the production of canned foods and vegetables in the United Kingdom in 1933 and 1934 were obtained in connection with the Import Duties Act Inquiry (1934). These figures are based on firms in the United

Kingdom employing more than ten persons as an annual average. From preliminary Report No. 5 on this inquiry, the Foodstuffs Division of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce has compiled the following statistics on the British output of canned foods in the two years. The values have been converted from pounds sterling to dollars at the average annual rate exchange for the pounds sterling—\$4.2368 in 1933 and \$5.0393 in 1934.

Product	1934		1933	
	Pounds	Value	Pounds	Value
Canned peas	55,888,000	\$4,898,000	55,888,000	\$3,792,000
Other canned vegetables	57,568,000	4,359,000	48,608,000	3,284,000
Fruit, canned or bottled in syrup:				
Total	44,464,000	4,878,000	43,792,000	4,216,000
Cherries	2,016,000	282,000	*896,000	*114,000
Gooseberries	2,016,000	146,000	*448,000	*21,000
Loganberries	*2,016,000	*232,000	*224,000	*30,000
Plums	15,344,000	1,129,000	*4,144,000	*263,000
Raspberries	4,480,000	615,000	*2,464,000	*284,000
Strawberries	4,144,000	559,000	*2,464,000	*326,000
Other kinds	5,040,000	882,000	*4,928,000	*475,000
Not separately distinguished	9,408,000	1,033,000	28,224,000	2,703,000
Fruit, canned or bottled without sugar:				
Total	21,504,000	1,754,000	17,808,000	1,521,000
Gooseberries*	1,792,000	126,000	784,000	51,000
Plums*	2,464,000	166,000	1,008,000	72,000
Other kinds*	7,728,000	534,000	4,816,000	466,000
Not separately distinguished	9,520,000	928,000	11,200,000	932,000

* So far as recorded separately.

Swiss Treaty Ratifications Exchanged

The ratifications of the trade agreement between the United States and Switzerland signed at Washington on January 9, 1936, were exchanged at Bern on May 7, and on the same day the President issued his proclamation declaring that in accordance with a stipulation in Article XVIII of the Agreement the entire Agreement would enter into effect on June 6, 1936, the thirtieth day after the exchange.

Meanwhile, the provisions of Articles I to XVII, inclusive, which by a provision of the Agreement were made applicable from February 15, 1936, will continue to be applicable.

Officers Elected by American Can Co.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors held in New York City, May 5, 1936, Mr. W. H. Phelps, former President, was elected to the Chairmanship of the Board of the American Can Company. Mr. Phelps succeeds the late Mr. F. S. Wheeler. Mr. C. E. Green, former Vice President and Comptroller, was elected President, and Mr. W. O. Starr, formerly Auditor, is now Comptroller.

Trend of Retail Trade

Department store sales increased from March to April by less than the usual seasonal amount and the Federal Reserve Board's index, which makes allowance for seasonal changes, declined from 88 per cent of the 1923-1925 average to 81 per cent. This compares with an index of 80 in February. Total sales in April were 8 per cent larger and total sales in the first four months of the year 9 per cent larger than in the corresponding periods of 1935.

Daily average sales of variety stores for April, 1936, were about $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent higher in dollar volume than for April 1935, and 15 per cent above those for the same month of 1934, according to the U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. As compared with March of this year daily average sales showed an increase of about $18\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The aggregate value of sales for the first four months of 1936 was about the same as for the corresponding period of 1935.

Daily average sales of general merchandise in small towns and rural areas for April were about $8\frac{1}{2}$ per cent higher in dollar volume than for April, 1935, and were 49 per cent above those for the same month of 1934, according to estimates of the U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, based on rural chain store and mail-order sales. Sales for April increased about $6\frac{1}{2}$ per cent from March, or more than the usual increase at this season of the year. Sales for the first four months of the year were 8 per cent above those for the corresponding period of 1935.

Frozen and Preserved Fruits in Cold Storage

The following table shows the holdings of fruits in cold storage reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics as of May 1st, also a comparison with last year and with a five-year average:

	May 1, 1936	May 1, 1935	Five-year average
Apples:			
Barrels	86,000	68,000	118,000
Boxes	3,026,000	1,804,000	2,661,000
Baskets	2,148,000	1,557,000	1,204,000
Pears:			
Boxes	72,000	81,000	107,000
Baskets	3,000	2,000	7,000
Frozen and preserved fruits:			
Pounds	54,751,000	40,929,000	52,343,000

Canners League Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Canners League of California, it is announced, will be held at the Palace Hotel in San Francisco on Friday, May 29th.

N. C. A. Directors to Meet May 20th

The Spring meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Canners Association will be held at Washington on Wednesday, May 20th. Preceding the Board meeting there will be a meeting of the Committee on Statistics and Information and Executive Committee of the Scientific Research Committee on Monday, and meetings of the Administrative Council and Labeling Committee on Tuesday.

New N. C. A. Members

In INFORMATION LETTER No. 593 issued on March 21, 1936, there was published a list of canners whose applications for membership had been received since publication of the Membership List in February. The following list shows the canners elected to membership since March 21st:

Albert Dam, Verona Station, N. Y.
 Ensher, Alexander & Barsom, Inc., Sacramento, Calif.
 Burgess Humphrey Canning Co., New Orleans, La.
 Haley Canning Co., Hillsboro, Ore.
 Superior Canning Co., Avondale, Pa.
 Willow Grove Canning Co., Vineland, N. J.
 Union Fishermans Coop. Canning Co., Astoria, Ore.
 Hunter Packing Co., East St. Louis, Ill.
 Floridian Products Corp., Arcadia, Fla.
 Stockton Food Products, Inc., San Francisco, Calif.
 Swayzee Canning Co., Inc., Swayzee, Ind.
 Stockton Packing Association, Stockton, Calif.
 Mrs. Rubenstein's Food Products Corp., Chicago, Ill.
 Hillman Packing Co., Salem, Ore.

TRADE AGREEMENT WITH FRANCE

Many of French Concessions Relate to Quotas for American Products

Details of the new trade agreement with France were announced on May 13th, and show that reduced duties on American goods entering France, the "binding" of other duties, and quota increases affect more than a fourth of French imports from the United States. In return the United States has reduced duties, or "bound" the continuance of present duties, on articles representing about one-third of the total imports from France into this country.

American exports to France fell off from \$265,000,000 in 1929 to \$116,900,000 in 1935, and imports of French goods dropped from \$171,000,000 in 1929 to \$58,300,000 in 1935. The decrease is attributed to the depression, to higher tariff rates, to the French quota system, and to the devaluation of the dollar, which raised the price of French goods in terms of dollars.

American exports to France have suffered more from artificial quantitative restrictions imposed under the quota system than from excessive tariff rates, according to the State Department's announcement on the treaty,—the French rates, with a few exceptions, being comparatively moderate and not applying to important raw materials such as cotton, coffee, and tobacco. Consequently the French concessions are mostly in the shape of higher quotas. American concessions, on the other hand, are chiefly in the form of tariff reductions.

The concessions especially interesting to canners are summarized in the following paragraphs, which follow closely the summary issued by the State Department:

Concessions by France

With a few minor exceptions the French concessions extend to that country's possessions. In addition to concessions in duties and quotas, the agreement provides that the special turnover tax imposed by France on imported goods, which has heretofore been higher on American than on other for-

eign products, shall be reduced so that the lowest rate of tax shall hereafter apply to American products.

CANNED FRUIT.—For unsweetened canned pineapple in the natural juice (of which French imports from the United States in 1935 amounted to about \$42,000), a reduction in the duty from 300 francs to 285 francs per 100 kilos is provided.

CANNED ASPARAGUS.—For this commodity (of which United States exports to France in 1935 amounted to \$661,000, or 27 per cent of total canned asparagus exports), a minor duty reduction is provided, from 208 to 200 francs per 100 kilos, affording assurance, it is said, against an increase which was recently under consideration.

CANNED AND FROZEN SALMON.—For canned salmon (of which exports to France have been negligible because of the application of the prohibitive maximum duty of 492 francs per 100 kilos), the minimum rate of 123 francs has been obtained, together with a separate quota allocation of 10,000 quintals (2,204,000 pounds) until December 31, 1936, followed by a quarterly allocation of 2,500 quintals for the first quarter of 1937. Although a definite guarantee for subsequent periods was not obtained, assurance has been given that the French Government will endeavor to continue quarterly allocations of 2,500 quintals. Heretofore the United States has received no allocation for canned salmon. It is estimated that at current prices this concession will represent about \$450,000 of trade annually.

For frozen salmon, for which the present minimum rate of 104 francs per 100 kilos was applied to the United States from January 1, 1936, at the same time that the quota restriction was removed, assurance against an increase in this minimum duty has been secured in the agreement. French imports of frozen salmon from the United States in 1935 amounted to \$325,000.

CANNED SHRIMP, CRAB MEAT, ETC.—For canned crustaceans a separate allocation for the United States is provided of 250 quintals for the first quarter of 1937, with an assurance for subsequent periods, whereas heretofore no separate allocation had been given to the United States. In addition, the minimum rate of 88.40 francs per 100 kilos has been granted, instead of the present maximum rate of 124.80 francs. French imports from the United States in 1935 amounted to \$6,300.

CANNED SARDINES.—For canned pilchards (sardines), the minimum rate of 123 francs per 100 kilos has now been obtained within the limits of 1,000 quintals (200,000 pounds) annually, instead of the maximum rate of 492 francs per 100 kilos now applicable on all imports from the United States. There have been practically no exports of sardines to France in recent years.

DRIED FRUIT.—The rate of duty on prunes not running over 80 per 500 grams and prunes of any size in boxes is reduced from 166.40 francs to 165 francs per 100 kilos, and the duty on other prunes from 124.80 to 123 francs. It is explained by the State Department that this concession will assure tariff stability to this important commodity. The import tax on prunes will be reduced from 6 per cent to 2 per cent of the duty-paid value. French imports of American prunes amounted to \$1,785,000 in 1935.

For raisins (of which United States exports to France in 1935 amounted to \$289,000), a definite assurance has been obtained that Thompson Seedless raisins, which constitute almost the whole of American raisin exports to France, will be admitted at the rate of 40 francs per 100 kilos, as provided for Corinth and Smyrna raisins (sultanas) and raisins of those types, instead of the rate of 78 francs which might be applied without this assurance.

For dried peaches, apricots, apples and pears (of which United States exports to France in 1935 amounted to \$2,277,000), assurance of tariff stability has been obtained by their inclusion in Section B of Schedule II, which provides that existing duties can be increased only under certain specified exceptional circumstances.

Concessions by the United States

In the list of commodities upon which duties have been reduced by the United States, the following are of interest to canners:

CANNED MUSHROOMS.—Imports of canned mushrooms from France amounted to \$146,429 in 1935. The duty is reduced from 10 cents a pound (on drained weight) and 45 per cent ad valorem to 8 cents a pound and 25 per cent ad valorem, or on the basis of 1934 imports from 77 per cent to 51 per cent equivalent ad valorem.

MARASCHINO AND CANDIED CHERRIES.—Imports of French cherries covered by the concession amounted to \$4,270. The present rate of 9½ cents a pound and 40 per cent ad valorem is reduced to 9½ cents a pound and 20 per cent ad valorem. On the basis of 1934 imports this represents a reduction from 96 to 76 per cent equivalent ad valorem. The bulk of imports of cherries are in the natural state, or sulphured or in brine, neither of which forms is affected by the concession.

Hearing on Colorado Peach Marketing Agreement

A public hearing on a proposed marketing agreement and order for handlers of fresh peaches grown in Mesa and Delta Counties of Colorado, will be held May 29th at Grand Junction, Colo. The proposed agreement and order would replace a marketing agreement for the industry which has been in effect since November, 1934. The request for a new marketing agreement program was made by representatives of growers and shippers of peaches grown in the two counties.

The principal provisions of the proposed agreement and order are: (1) Regulation of shipments by grades and sizes; (2) price filing and posting; (3) establishment of a control board for the administration of the program.

Rubber Tire Industry Trade Conference

The Federal Trade Commission announces that the trade practice conference for the rubber tire industry, which that Commission will sponsor, will be held at the Stevens Hotel in Chicago, Thursday, June 4th. The purpose of the conference is to eliminate by voluntary action such trade abuses as may be found to exist in the industry.

SOCIAL SECURITY DEVELOPMENTS

Official Analysis Illustrating Exemption of Agricultural Labor under the Indiana Law

A recent official analysis in the form of questions and answers concerning the Indiana law, issued by the Unemployment Compensation Board of that State, contains an interesting illustration of the exemption of "agricultural labor" as applied to the canning industry. The Indiana definition of "agricultural labor" is exactly the same as that contained in the Federal Regulations (discussed in the INFORMATION LETTER of March 28 at p. 4892) and is thus of interest to canners throughout the country. The analysis reads as follows:

"The Stewart Canning Company operate a canning factory in which they employ sixteen employees for five weeks every year. They also own and operate a farm on which is produced a substantial portion of the vegetables which are canned in such factory. All the products of the farm are canned in such factory. They employ, for a period of thirty weeks in each year, ten entirely different people upon such farm whose services are performed solely in the cultivation of the soil and the harvesting of the crops canned in such canning factory. Immediately across the road from the Company's farm is a farm owned and farmed by John Black and devoted to the same crops raised on the Stewart Company farm and he sells all such products to the Stewart Canning Company to be canned in such factory. John Black also employs ten people upon his farm for thirty weeks in each year and they perform all their services in connection with the cultivation of the soil and the harvesting of crops on such farm. This condition often exists in the growing and canning of tomatoes, peas, corn and other products and often canning companies will lease large amounts of acreage for the purpose of raising such crops.

"(a) What is the liability for contribution, if any, of the Stewart Canning Company for the employees of the farm and of the canning factory?

"(b) What is the liability for contribution, if any, of John Black for the employees upon his farm?

"(c) Would the liability for contribution of the Stewart Canning Company be changed if they canned only the products raised on the Company's farm?

ANSWERS

"(a) The farm employees of the Stewart Canning Company are performing service, upon a farm, in connection with the cultivation of the soil and the harvesting of crops and such services are included in the definition of 'agricultural labor' . . . :

"The term 'agricultural labor' includes *all* services performed—

"(a) By an employee, on a farm, in connection with the cultivation of the soil, the harvesting of crops or the raising, feeding or management of live stock, bees and poultry; . . .

"The wages of the farm employees of the Stewart Canning Company are therefore exempt from contribution by both employer and employee as being excluded from employment subject to contribution under this Law. . . . The wages of the employees of the canning factory are also exempted from contribution because their employer has not, for some portion of a day, in each of twenty different weeks, in either the preceding or current calendar year, had eight or more employees in employment subject to contribution.

"(b) The employees upon the farm of John Black are also performing 'agricultural labor' and their wages are also exempt from contribution by both employer and employees.

"(c) As to the farm employees there would be no change in the liability for contribution upon the employees of the Stewart Canning Company's farm if they canned only the products raised on such farm. If the canning factory employees worked for some portion of the day in each of twenty different weeks in either the preceding or current calendar year their wages would be subject to contribution unless it was found that the operation of the canning factory was incidental to the operation of the farm. . . ."

Administration Expenses of State Laws

Under the provisions of the Federal Social Security Act, States having unemployment compensation laws approved by the Social Security Board are entitled to grants from the Federal Government to cover the costs of administering such laws. The Board recently announced the issuance of checks totaling \$298,255.47 to New Hampshire, New York, and Wisconsin for this purpose. Other States whose laws have been approved by the Board are Alabama, California, District of Columbia, Indiana, Massachusetts, Oregon, and Washington.

Other Phases of Social Security Program

In previous discussions of Social Security we have confined ourselves principally to matters dealing with unemployment compensation. This is only one phase, however, of the vast social program inaugurated by the Federal Government. The Act contains provisions for grants by the Federal Government to States with approved plans for the assistance of the needy aged, needy blind, dependent children, or for maternal and child welfare, or public health work. The Social Security Board is charged with the administration of the first three of these.

The Federal Government pays half of any amount not in excess of \$30 a month granted by the State to a needy aged or blind person. In the case of dependent children the Federal grant equals one-third of the cost of this form of assistance not in excess of \$18 per month for the first dependent child in a family, and \$12 per month for each additional child in the same family.

Thus far the Social Security Board has approved public assistance plans in thirty-four States and the District of Columbia, including thirty-one State plans for aid to the needy aged, nineteen State plans for aid to the needy blind, and eighteen State plans for aid to dependent children. It is estimated that these plans will provide assistance to approximately 554,000 needy aged, 20,000 needy blind, and 148,000 needy dependent children during the months of April, May, and June. The Federal contribution toward the care of these persons is expected to be more than \$15,000,000 for the three months.

Chicago Requires Poultry Inspection

The packing or selling of canned poultry and canned poultry products within the City of Chicago is unlawful, according to a recent ordinance of the city council, unless it shall have been inspected and passed as fit for consumption as human food by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

This ordinance, now in effect, provides also that each can or container of canned poultry, or canned poultry products, shall be plainly marked to show that its contents have been inspected and passed by the Department and also to show the name and address of the packer or distributor.

Violation of the provisions of this ordinance will subject the packer or seller to a fine of not less than \$25 and not more than \$200 for each offense.

Inspection of dressed poultry is by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics and the service is utilized by most of the larger canners of poultry and poultry products, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture. The inspection consists in examination by a qualified veterinarian of each poultry carcass at the time it is eviscerated to determine that it is healthy and otherwise fit for human food. All diseased or unfit poultry is denatured. This poultry inspection service meets the requirements of the Chicago ordinance. It is available to all poultry canners who are willing to pay the costs of the service and to make suitable arrangements for examinations.

Fruit and Vegetable Market Competition

Carlot shipments as reported by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Department of Agriculture

	Week ending May 9		Week ending May 2		Total for season through May 9	
	1935	1936	1936	1935	1936	
VEGETABLES						
Beans, snap and lima	614	422	305	7,108	5,380	
Tomatoes	8,376	896	577	10,507	8,376	
Green peas	367	372	456	2,705	3,137	
Spinach	282	178	218	5,352	7,324	
Others:						
Domestic, compet- ing directly	5,511	6,196	6,344	129,992	140,354	
Imports, compet- ing—						
Directly	10	1	4	364	518	
Indirectly	1	1	3	1,092	1,850	
FRUITS						
Citrus, domestic ..	3,459	6,474	3,178	96,743	86,432	
Imports	8	17	17	309	515	
Others, domestic ..	908	1,334	906	22,307	19,959	

World Consumption of Tin Rises

World tin consumption in the 12 months ended February of the current year registered a substantial increase as compared with the preceding 12-month period, according to a report from the American consulate-general at London made public by the Commerce Department.

Figures compiled by the Hague Statistical Office, the report states, show that apparent world consumption of tin during the year ended February, 1936, amounted to 145,492 long tons compared with 119,750 tons in the previous 12 months, an increase of 21.5 per cent.

United States consumption, the statistics reveal, advanced during the periods under review from 45,795 tons to 66,439 tons, an increase of approximately 45 per cent. Consumption in the United Kingdom increased from 20,890 tons to 22,113 tons, an advance of nearly 6 per cent.

World production of tinsplate in the first two months of 1936 amounted to 539,000 tons against 511,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1935, the Hague statistics show.

Court Action on Substandard Preserves

In the INFORMATION LETTER for September 28, 1935, attention was called to an announcement of the Food and Drug Administration rescinding its former ruling with respect to jams and preserves and requiring that products labeled as "Jams" or "Preserves" without qualification should contain at least 45 pounds of fruit to each 55 pounds of sugar. It was also announced that such products containing less than 45 pounds but more than 25 pounds of fruit to each 55 pounds of sugar should be labeled with the word "IMITATION" and in addition with a clear statement indicating wherein such products are imitation.

This matter has now been ruled on by a Federal Court and the Government action just mentioned has been sustained. Under date of May 14, 1936, the Department of Agriculture issued a press notice stating that a seizure action involving this principle has been tried before the Federal Court at Providence, R. I., was contested by the packer, and the decision, returned on May 13th, was in favor of the Government.

FEDERAL-AIDED CANNING PROJECTS

Large Output Planned in Cooperative Enterprise in Alabama

Definite information is not available in Washington with respect to canning operations carried on under the sponsorship of the Works Progress Administration. There is no central direction of this work from Washington, and it has been decentralized and put into the States.

Under the Rural Resettlement Administration home canning is part of the home relief program of every family that the Rural Resettlement Administration is assisting. In these home projects each family is carrying on gardening and canning the surplus products. At the close of the present fiscal year it was anticipated that about 200,000 would be working on this farm and home plan.

Following are excerpts from an article appearing in the Birmingham *News-Age Herald* for Sunday, May 10th, relative to Federal aided projects operating on a cooperative basis in East Birmingham:

"Within another two or three weeks, canning of vegetables will be under way at the plant of the Alabama Cooperative Industries, Inc., one of the several federal-aided industries which is operated on a cooperative basis in East Birmingham.

"Expectations are this season that there will be not less than 400,000 cases of tomatoes, corn, string beans, lima beans, blackberries, apples, peaches, pears and cucumbers put up.

"The trade has been informed of the preparations made to increase materially the output of the industry here and farmers in Jefferson, Blount, Cullman, Chilton and other

counties within easy access of Birmingham have been notified that there will be a market for their crops, direct or surplus, and that 'credits' at the market price will be given and the canned product distributed when instructions are given.

"A large stock of cans has been laid in already for the season's output. The organization has 600 active members, 380 working members and 220 other members. During the first year approximately 400,000 man hours were worked and credits distributed for \$94,000, relief savings amounted to \$30,000.

"Agricultural agents and home economics representatives in all surrounding territory are assisting in this enterprise."

Dietitians Are Large Buyers of Canned Foods

An editorial in the May issue of the Journal of the American Dietetic Association analyzing the effect that dietitians have on influencing food habits and food purchasing will be of interest to all canners. The following paragraphs from the editorial indicate the importance to the industry of the work of the Association's Home Economics Division in relation to dietitians and their organizations:

"Let us consider the hospital dietitian for the moment, solely as a buyer. What and how much does she buy? We will cite some items on the list of foods purchased by a dietitian in a university hospital in the Middle West. In one year she purchased among other things, the following: evaporated milk, 1,574 No. 10 cans; pineapple juice, 1,787 No. 10 cans; tomato juice, 2,943 No. 10 cans; cocoa, 1,151 pounds; coffee, 8,902 pounds; bananas, 29,100 pounds; steel wool, 296 pounds; and paper napkins, half a million. Another, in a large private hospital in a Midwestern metropolis, purchased 1,000 pounds of baking powder a year, a carload of No. 10 canned tomatoes, a carload of sugar, and three tons of cheese!

"Not only does the dietitian buy in the hospital; she is also an important factor as a buyer in the school and college dormitory. Nearly 150 members of the American Dietetic Association serve in this capacity. One such, feeding 1,400 students in a Southern university, purchased 4,363 pounds of cheese from the middle of September, 1935, to the middle of March, 1936. At one time she placed an order for 2,700 cases of No. 10 canned fruits and vegetables, and 67 cases of No. 10 cans of jams and preserves.

"Another group, representing more than 100 of the members of the Association, are in the tearoom, restaurant, cafeteria and hotel field. In this group the dietitian is closely concerned with the purchasing of foods in large quantities. Some may feel that here the influence on food tastes and habits of the clientele may not be so far reaching as in that of the school and college dormitory. Here the trade is often transient. But even the casual or occasional eater in the commercial food unit over which a dietitian presides cannot fail to observe the tempting way in which certain dishes, particularly vegetables and salads, hitherto unappealing, can be served with a taste appeal. Dietitians are now engaged as owners or managers of restaurants; as hotel directors, and as dietitians of hotels and dining car systems for railroads. One for a number of years has been dietitian for a large hotel

chain in an advisory capacity and as manager of an experimental kitchen where new dishes or foods are tried out; another serves in somewhat like capacity in a great New York City hotel. The scope of work for the dietitian in the large hotel is just developing."

Growing Tomatoes in Illinois

Some of the difficulties encountered in growing tomatoes under soil and temperature conditions prevailing in Illinois are discussed in a new circular (No. 451), just issued by the Illinois Agricultural Experiment Station at Urbana under the title "Growing Tomatoes in Illinois." Soil preparation and fertilizers, suitable varieties for use in Illinois and the raising, handling and setting of plants are covered in this publication. Problems of harvesting and grading are also discussed.

Costs and Returns in Producing Sweet Corn for Canning

The New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y., published in March a mimeographed report (A. E. 128) entitled "Costs and Returns in Producing Canning Factory Sweet Corn, 1935." The report is a "summary of 28 enterprise accounts in Madison, Seneca and Yates counties." The summary of the report is as follows:

"Information obtained from these 28 records on costs and returns in producing canning factory sweet corn indicates that in 1935 returns from the crop were reasonably satisfactory as compared with other farm enterprises. Returns per hour of labor averaged \$0.31 for all farmers but varied considerably. Some farmers failed to receive pay for their labor after paying all other expenses while a number made somewhat more than the average for all farms. Low costs of production in 1935 were at least partly the result of low prices for fertilizer and labor. Prospects at present indicate that it will be some time before prices of the important items in growing and harvesting sweet corn will be as favorable as in 1935.

"Among the more important factors associated with variations in yields, costs and net returns are the following:

"YIELD PER ACRE. Results obtained from these records indicate that higher than average yields result in lower costs per ton and greater net returns. A yield of approximately 50 per cent above the average increased returns per hour of labor more than 50 per cent.

"ACRES PER FARM. The analysis of these records indicates that larger than average acreages mean lower costs per acre and smaller labor requirements. Because larger acreages on these farms apparently resulted in poorer yields, a moderate acreage of corn per farm is to be recommended unless high yields can be obtained. These farmers who had high yields on large acreages made the greatest net returns on their crops.

"MANURE AND FERTILIZER. Larger than average application of fertilizer and of manure resulted in larger yields and generally greater returns. More than average amounts of both fertilizer and manure apparently resulted in the largest yields and the highest net returns.

"ROTATION. Yields and net returns were larger for those farmers who planted corn on ground which had been in sod or pasture the previous year than for those who planted corn immediately after grain or cultivated crops.

"DATE OF PLOWING. Apparently there is but little difference in yields, costs, and returns between crops grown on spring-plowed land and those planted on ground which was plowed the previous fall."

Copies of the report may be obtained from the Agricultural Extension Service, New York State College of Agriculture, Ithaca, N. Y.

Pea Weevil Control

The Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the U. S. Department of Agriculture has issued a four-page mimeographed statement, E-371, entitled "Suggestions for the Control of the Pea Weevil in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho." This statement supersedes Circular E-339, "Suggestions for the Control of the Pea Weevil in Oregon," issued in February, 1935.

The statement discusses the life history of the pea weevil, sources of infestation, and lists a number of suggestions for reducing weevil damage to peas grown for seed as well as for reducing pea weevil damage in cannery peas and in peas grown for the green pea market.

Among the suggestions for growers of green peas, or peas for canning, are the following: plant weevil free seed, clean up possible hibernating quarters, avoid growing cannery and seed peas in the same district, reduce harvest loss, take care of winery refuse, can or market as few of the older peas as possible.

Copies of the circular may be obtained from Mr. T. A. Brindley, in charge of the Moscow, Idaho pea weevil laboratory of the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine, or from the Bureau of Entomology, Washington, D. C.

Tomato Growing in Michigan

The growing of tomatoes in Michigan is discussed in Michigan State College Extension Bulletin 156 under a number of different subject headings. These include statistics of production, soils for tomatoes, fertilizers and manures, plant growing, southern grown plants, seeding, varieties, seed selection, diseases, insects, harvesting and marketing. Copies may be obtained from the Extension Division, Michigan State College, East Lansing, Michigan.

Tomato Seed Source Demonstrations in 1935

The Virginia Extension Service has compiled a mimeographed report of the results of a tomato variety test of strains of Marglobe from 14 sources. The tests were carried on in 1935 in Lancaster and Westmoreland counties in cooperation with the Virginia Truck Experiment Station. The seed for each plot was all planted on the same date in the same plant bed and treated in the same manner. Plants were set in the fields on the same day and received the same field treatment. Records were made on trueness to type, resistance to wilt and yield.

"The plots gave an excellent indication as to potential sources of good seed. In the Marglobe strains trueness to

type ranged from as high as 100 per cent to as low as 86.4 per cent with an average for the 14 strains of 95.2 per cent.

"For the Marglobe strains, wilt ranged from 0 per cent to 2 per cent with an average of 0.9 per cent on July 10 compared to 17.8 per cent for the Greater Baltimore check; from 13.7 per cent to 28.3 per cent with an average of 21.5 per cent on August 5th as compared to 83.6 per cent for the Greater Baltimore check; and from 42.4 per cent to 65.9 per cent with an average of 55.0 per cent on August 26th compared to 96.6 per cent for the Greater Baltimore check. On August 26th at the last wilt count, the number of plants dead from wilt ranged from 0.6 per cent to 14.8 per cent with an average of 5.1 per cent for the Marglobe strains compared to 72.9 per cent for the Greater Baltimore check.

"Yields ranged from 203.9 to 247.3 with an average of 224.6 bushels per acre for the Marglobe strains compared with 83.5 bushels per acre for Greater Baltimore. The best Marglobe strain yielded 296 per cent as well as the check while the average yield for all 14 Marglobe strains was still 269 per cent that of the check. Thus is indicated the necessity for good seed.

"Of the new varieties, Rutgers yielded 149.9 bushels per acre; Pritchard 227.5 bushels and Invincible 210.4 bushels."

Copies of the report are available from L. B. Dietrich in charge of Vegetable Extension, Virginia Agricultural College, Blacksburg, Va.

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